

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /079 W

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R 202239Z OCT 75

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3071

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5172

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, GT, UK

SUBJECT: BELIZE DISPUTE

REF: A) STATE 246409

?) USUN 5132

1. SUMMARY: UK MISSION OFFICER RICHARDSON CALLED ON OCTOBER 18 TO CLARIFY STATUS OF TEXT PASSED TO HIM ON OCTOBER 17. RICHARDSON COMMENTED INFORMALLY ON THE TEXT AND PROMISED A FURTHER RESPONSE TO IT NEXT WEEK. UK MISSION MET WITH BELIZEAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ROGERS ON OCTOBER 18 AND HOPES TO HAVE AGREED DRAFT RESOLUTION BY OCTOBER 20 OR 21. NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN MADE ABOUT WHEN TO SHOW IT TO THE GUATEMALANS. HE PROMISED TO SHOW IT TO US AS SOON AS ITS READY. END SUMMARY

2. ON OCTOBER 18 UK MISSION OFFICER RICHARDSON CALLED US MISSION OFFICER TO REQUEST CLARIFICATION OF THE STATUS OF THE TEXT PASSED TO HIM IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF A ON OCTOBER 17. RICHARDSON WAS PUZZLED BECAUSE A TELEGRAM FROM THE GOVERNOR OF BELIZE MADE IT APPEAR THAT THE SAME TEXT PASSED TO THE GOVERNOR REPRESENTED AN OFFICIAL USE POSITION. US MISSION OFFICER REPEATED WHAT HE SAID ON OCTOBER 17 THAT THE TEXT IS NOT ENDORSED BY THE DEPARTMENT BUT RATHER CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL

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AMBASSADOR MELOY'S COMMENT ABOUT A UN RESOLUTION IN BELIZE

WHICH WE THOUGHT WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO HMG.

3. RICHARDSON SAID THAT HE AGREED WITH PARAGRAPH A AND ALSO WITH THE STATEMENT IN PARAGRAPH B ABOUT THE MINIMUM THAT GUATEMALA WOULD ACCEPT. HE CONTAINED THAT HMG WOULD NOT WANT TO USE THE WORD "DISPUTE" IN THE RESOLUTION AND WOULD INSTEAD PREFER TO RECOGNIZE "DIFFERENCES OF OPINION". RICHARDSON ADDED THAT THE INDICATION IN THE RESOLUTION THAT DIFFERENCES OF OPINION DO EXIST IS A RECOGNITION OF THE FACT THAT THERE IS A GUATEMALAN CLAIM. THE USE OF THE WORD "CLAIM" WOULD PUT THE UK IN A SITUATION CALLING FOR AN ICJ DECISION, RICHARDSON SAID, WHICH HE DID NOT ENVISION AS PRACTICAL IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

4. RICHARDSON, AGAIN EMPHASIZING THE INFORMAL NATURE OF HIS REMARKS, SAID THAT HE WAS OF THE OPINION THAT REFERENCES TO "SELF-DETERMINATION" WOULD BE EASIER FOR THE GUATEMALANS TO SWALLOW THAN REFERENCES TO INDEPENDENCE. HE SAID THAT THE BELIZEAN MINISTER LIKE THE IDEA OF "SELF-DETERMINATION" AND THAT THE FUATELMALANS HAD NOT BROUGHT IT UP AS A PROBLEM IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH HMG. RICHARDSON ADDED THAT "SELF-DETERMINATION" AND INDEPENDANCE" ARE VERY MUCH STANDARD UN LANGUAGE. HE AGREED THAT ANY RESOLUTION WHICH MAKES IT APPEAR THAT THE QUESTION OF INDEPENDENCE IS PURELY A DOMESTIC ISSUE FOR THE BELIZEAN PEOPLE WOULD INDEED CAUSE THE GOG GREAT CONCERN BUT THOUGHT THAT REFERENCES TO RESUMING NEGOTIATIONS IN THE RESOLUTION WOULD MEET THAT POINT. CITING THE CASE OF GUYANA, RICHARDSON SAID THAT HMG WOULD NOT ACCEPT AS A MATTER OF LAW THE POSITION THAT ALL TERRITORIAL CLAIMS MUST BE SETTLED BEFORE INDEPENDENCE CAN BE GRANTED. HE AGAIN STATED THAT THE GOB IS NOT CONSIDERING A UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND THAT SUCH AN ACT WITHOUT UK DEFENSE ASSURANCE (WHICH THEY WOULDNT GET) WOULD BE SHEER FOLLY.

5. RICHARDSON SAID THAT HE HOPED TO HAVE A RESPONSE FROM LONDON TO THE POINTS RAISED BY AMBASSAODR MELOY SOMETIME NEET WEEK AND WOULD TRAMSMIT THEM TO US HERE OR IN WASHINGTON.

6. RICHARDSON INFORMED US OF A MEETING WITH BELIZEAN
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DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ROGERS THIS MORNING (OCTOBER 18) AND SAID HE HOPED TO HAVE FINAL AGREEMENT ON THE LANGUAGE OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION BY MONDAY OR TUESDAY, ADDING THE SOONER THE BETTER. HE PROMISED TO SHOW US THE DRAFT RESOLUTION AS SOON AS IT IS READY RICHARDSON SAID THAT ROGERS IS IN HIS OPINION "VERY REASONABLE" AND IS WELL AWARE OF THE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS TO BE FACED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BOUNDARY CLAIMS, SELFDETERMINATION, RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975USUNN05172
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750364-0392
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751039/aaaabive.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 246409
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELIZE DISPUTE
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, GT, UK, BH, UNGA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006